

***Rand-Air: Press Release: 'Boosting a hurricane': Rand-Air invests in hurricane booster which will make a significant industry impact***

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At a time when the Southern and pan-African mining and engineering sectors are facing many challenges, companies are looking for suppliers which can offer them the widest and most robust range of products to assist them in addressing the challenges that they face.

Rand-Air, a leading locally-based equipment hire company with parent company Atlas Copco, has embraced this challenge, offering one of the widest product ranges in the market. This has grown steadily over the years and continues to expand. The latest addition to the mining and construction industries is no exception.

In response to increasing demand, Rand-Air Fleet Manager Craig Swart points out that the company is introducing a booster which is very versatile, and can be used in a number of applications.

"We have had numerous enquiries from customers for higher pressure equipment. This has emanated mainly from the drilling industry, and the natural gas drilling sector in particular. Currently, we have a hire in place with a drilling company in Botswana. We are investing in these boosters both as back up and to service any additional customer requirements, should they arise," says Craig.

He adds that the Hurricane Booster offers customers a number of advantages. The main one is that the booster can operate at various pressures, and is not limited to one pre-set pressure.

The Hurricane Booster comes with a diesel engine and requires a compressor for feed air.

Craig points out that most competitors focus on providing a booster block only. The Hurricane Booster also has a relatively small physical footprint, because of its vertical set-up and valve design, and weighs less – with the same capacity - which makes it extremely mobile.

The hallmark of a great product is the number of industries that it can be used in. While there are products which are specifically designed for one industry, the Hurricane Booster can be used effectively across a number of industries.

“The Hurricane Booster can be used in mineral exploration drilling, water well drilling, nitrogen boosting, pipeline cleaning, oil drilling and natural gas drilling. At this stage, we are still deciding where the biggest market lies for us. This will probably be the extensive oil and gas markets across Africa.

This is significant, particularly considering the discovery of oil and gas off the east coast of Africa, which offers mineral exploration companies quick wins, which will no doubt be developed over the coming years,” explains Craig.

Two of the most important aspects that companies within the industry look for in a product are fuel efficiency and safety aspects. As an Atlas Copco group product, the Hurricane Booster is being designed and perfected according to exacting international fuel efficiency and safety standards.

“This is particularly important in Africa, where the national grids are under pressure to supply energy and often request that companies to reduce consumption by as much as ten percent. Energy-efficient products such as the Hurricane booster are a perfect way for companies to remain optimally operational on site, and yet also reduce their energy consumption,” Craig adds.

“Demand for this product has been significant enough for Rand-Air to invest in another booster. There is no doubt that this will make a lasting impact on the local and sub-Saharan African market. This product is robust and is specifically designed according to high standards for demanding operating conditions, and is the perfect ‘boost’ to offer our customers,” concludes Craig.

***Ends***

***(586 words)***

### **Note To Editors**

### **About Rand-Air**

Rand-Air, founded in 1972, is a compressor and generator hire company and part of the Atlas Copco Group. With a fleet of more than 700 Atlas Copco compressors and generators, Rand-Air delivers to the point of need. With an infrastructure of 8 branches, Rand-Air is spread across South Africa, with representation in Botswana, Angola and Kenya.

Rand-Air is focused on offering effective, oil-free air solutions, and supplying specialised products to the construction, mining, quarrying, petrochemical, heavy engineering, manufacturing and events industries. Their customers can expect dedicated, round-the-clock service and back-up.

Rand-Air is proud to be triple ISO-accredited, with BBBEE Level 3 certification. Committed to reducing and managing the impact of HIV/AIDS in the workplace, the company has implemented a HIV/AIDS policy and programme.

**Atlas Copco** is a world-leading provider of sustainable productivity solutions. The Group serves customers with innovative compressors, vacuum solutions and air treatment systems, construction and mining equipment, power tools and assembly systems. Atlas Copco develops products and service focused on productivity, energy efficiency, safety and ergonomics. The company was founded in 1873, is based in Stockholm, Sweden, and has a global reach spanning more than 180 countries. In 2013, Atlas Copco had revenues of BSEK 84 (BEUR 9.7) and more than 40 000 employees. Learn more at [www.atlascopco.com](http://www.atlascopco.com).

**Specialty Rental** is a division within Atlas Copco's Construction Technique business area. It serves customers in the industry segments around the world with temporary air and power rental solutions. The specialty rental services are offered under several brands. The divisional headquarters is located in Houston, USA.

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